

AC. 4411
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COUNTY COUNCIL OF ESSEX



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Principal School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1973

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P R E F A C E

85-89 New London Road,
Chelmsford

March 1974

To *The Chairman and Members of the Education Committee*

This 1973 Report will be my last as Principal School Medical Officer and of necessity has to be abbreviated due to the considerable changes already in progress involving staff for the re-organisation of the National Health Service which is effective from 1st April 1974.

As in previous years this report, which includes a report of the Principal Dental Officer, has been prepared on the basis of draft material submitted by the Divisional School Medical Officers and Senior Officers of the Education and Health Departments who are concerned particularly with the School Health Service.

It is not possible to include the full detailed statistics as shown in previous reports and comment will only be made where there are significant changes. There has necessarily been a marking time with some services of the School Health Service due to the preparatory work for the National Health Service Re-organisation and it is to be hoped that, as a result of this preparatory work, the changeover from local authority administration to the National Health Service administration will be effected with a minimum of disturbance to the School Health Service.

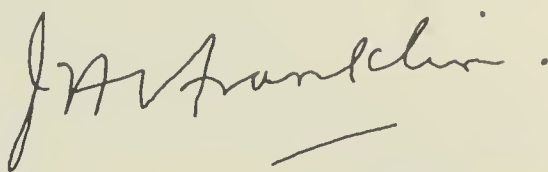
The health of the school children throughout the Administrative County has remained at a consistently satisfactory level and the system of selective medical inspections has continued, allowing the medical officers to concentrate their efforts where the need is greatest, and has again enabled the difficulties of staff shortages to be overcome for the benefit of the school children.

There has, regrettably, been little improvement in the provision of facilities for medical inspections at some schools, noticeably some primary schools, and it is unfortunate that it has not proved possible to allocate funds for the provision of the mobile school medical inspection unit, which may well have been a first step towards the improvement of these facilities, and the easing of the pressures on schools from various disciplines for accommodation.

The improved audiology service has been maintained throughout the year and I am pleased to report a moderate increase in the physiotherapy service to the special schools, which is welcomed by pupils and staff alike. The continuing severe shortage of speech therapists has prevented any improvement and indeed has made it necessary to run an advisory rather than a treatment service in some parts of the administrative County. The creation of posts of senior speech therapists during the year, within the authorised establishment, failed to provide the hoped for improvement to recruiting and it has now become a matter for the new Area Health Authority to resolve.

In conclusion, I wish to record my thanks and appreciation to the Education Committee for the help and support, not only during the year under

review but throughout the preceding years, and to the Chief Education Officer and his staff for their most helpful co-operation as well as to my own staff and all others concerned in any way with the School Health Service for their assistance and loyalty, and without whom these reports could not have been submitted.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. A. Francis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Principal School Medical Officer



COUNTY COUNCIL OF ESSEX

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December 1973)

Chairman: Mrs. B. C. Platt, M.A., C.Eng., A.F.R.Ae.S.

Vice-Chairman: R. H. Dyball, O.B.E., T.D., M.A.

County Council Members

Aldermen:

Mrs. E. W. Borthwick
Mrs. F. L. Coker
Brigadier T. F. J. Collins,
C.B.E., D.L.
J. L. M. Crofton
G. C. S. Curtis, O.B.E., M.A.

A. Jones, M.B.E., J.P.
J. E. Tabor, O.B.E., M.A., D.L.
Brigadier J. T. de H. Vaizey, C.B.E.
G. C. Waterer, B.Sc.
S. S. Wilson, O.B.E., J.P.
W. R. Wright, M.Inst., M.S.M.

Councillors:

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Mrs. S. Anderson, B.A.
M. J. Cullen
J. J. Davidson
G. A. Detmaur
R. W. Dixon Smith
P. R. Elliott
D. J. Fisher, J.P.
H. W. Frost
Mrs. D. E. Golding
P. J. Harty
Mrs. M. D. Hutton
Group Capt. H. P.
Johnston, O.B.E.
F. W. Limer
J. A. Mackintosh

Mrs. J. C. Martin
Mrs. B. McGreal
E. C. Metson, M.C., F.C.C.S.
E. J. Milo
A. C. Moles
W. P. O'Donoghue, M.B.E.
E. C. Perry, M.B.E.
A. V. Stockley, J.P., M.A.(Oxon),
A.Inst.P.
Miss M. L. Tabor
Mrs. E. M. Tuck
Brigadier J. C. B. Wakeford,
C.M.G.
P. E. W. White
Mrs. J. Woods

Representatives of Divisional Executive

Mrs. E. M. Clarke, M.A.
Mrs. C. M. Cock
Mrs. M. W. Davies
B. E. Downie

E. P. Duffield
J. W. Lobley
W. A. Nichols, J.P.
E. Trippier, M.R.S.H., M.Inst.B.E.

Representatives of Universities

Professor J. Bradley
F. C. C. Edmonds, M.A.

H. Marriott, B.Eng., B.Sc.Econ.,
F.I.E.E.

Persons of Experience in Education

C. R. Allison, M.A.
B. S. Coker, F.C.A.
Mrs. M. E. Edwards
Hon. Mrs. J. Franklin, J.P.

L. F. Grant, O.B.E.
Father L. Heston
W. G. Ingram, M.A.
The Rev. Canon M. M. Martin, M.A.

Representatives of Teachers

Miss E. Bird
J. R. Prince

A. Dyer
A. W. A. Ellis
Gwyn Jones

STAFF OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE
(as at 31st December 1973)

CENTRAL OFFICE

Principal School Medical Officer
J. A. C. Franklin, M.B., B.S., F.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Deputy Principal School Medical Officer
R. D. Pearce, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Principal Medical Officer
Elizabeth M. Sefton, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., D.C.H., L.M.

Principal School Dental Officer
J. C. Timmis, L.D.S., D.D.P.H., R.C.S.

Director of Nursing Services
Miss J. Carré, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.Cert.

County Health Inspector
M. E. Rousell, M.A.P.H.I.

County Health Education Officer
C. E. Williams, Dip.H.E., M.R.S.H.

County Speech Therapist
Miss Jennifer Austin, M.A., D.T.S.T., L.C.S.T.

Statistician
W. H. Leak, B.A., F.S.S.

DIVISIONAL STAFF

Divisions	Divisional School Medical Officers
North East	M. F. H. Bush, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H. D.P.H.
Mid-Essex	J. A. Slattery, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
South East Essex	D. A. Smyth, M.B., B.S., C.P.H., D.P.H., F.R.S.H., M.F.C.M., F.R.I.P.H.H.
Thurrock	T. D. Blott, B.Sc., B.L., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
West-Essex	A. Afnan, M.D., D.P.H., D.L.O., L.A.H.
Harlow	I. Ash, M.D., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.
Basildon	P. X. O'Dwyer, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Colchester	M. F. H. Bush, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H. D.P.H.

OTHER DIVISIONAL STAFF

(excluding staff employed by Regional Hospital Boards)

	Number* employed	Aggregate of time given to School Health Service (in terms of whole-time officers)
School Medical Officers (including D.S.M.O's)	76	20.9
Dental Officers (including Area Dental Officers)	53	39.8
Health Visitors/School and Ancillary Nurses	297	98.3
Dental Surgery Assistants	64	48.7
Dental Auxiliaries	8	5.3
Speech Therapists	24	14.9
Social Workers	15	12.4
Physiotherapists	4	1.2

**Includes sessional officers*

GENERAL STATISTICS

School Population Mid-Year 1973

	Primary * Schools	Secondary Schools	Special Schools	Total
North-East Essex	16,459	8,514	354	25,327
Colchester	8,666	7,223	340	16,229
Mid-Essex	33,149	19,712	454	53,315
South-East Essex	17,816	9,478	183	27,477
Thurrock	14,414	8,893	405	23,712
West-Essex	16,611	10,280	281	27,172
Harlow	11,765	8,995	222	20,982
Basildon	18,331	11,530	335	30,196
Boarding Schools	-	710	-	710
Total 1973	137,211	85,335	2,574	225,120
Total 1972	125,847	86,597	2,653	215,097

**This figure includes children at nursery schools*

Number of Schools

Nursery Schools	2
Primary Schools	537
Secondary Schools	104
Special Schools	34
Technical and other Colleges	11

Distribution of Special Schools

The 34 Special Schools in the Administrative County cater for handicapped pupils in the following way:—

Category of Handicapped Pupil	Divisional Executive	Day Schools	Residential Schools	Hospital Schools	Sex	Accommodation
Educationally Subnormal	Colchester	2	—	—	Mixed	220
		—	—	1	Mixed	120
	North-East	2	—	—	Mixed	160
	Mid-Essex	4	—	1	Mixed	360
		—	1	—	Boys	58
	South East	2	—	—	Mixed	170
	Basildon	3	—	—	Mixed	330
	West Essex	—	1	—	Boys	100
		1	—	—	Mixed	110
		—	1	—	Girls	50
	Harlow	3	—	—	Mixed	275
	Thurrock	3	—	—	Mixed	360
		—	—	1	Mixed	100
	Total	20	3	3		2,413
Maladjusted	North-East	—	3	—	Boys	165
	West Essex	—	1	—	Mixed	40
	Basildon	1	—	—	Mixed	50
	Total	1	4	—		255
Delicate and/or physically handicapped	North East	—	1	—	Mixed	90
	Thurrock	1	—	—	Mixed	100
	Mid-Essex	—	—	1	Mixed	70
	Total	1	1	1		260

Number of School Clinics

Minor Ailments	36
Dental	60 (+ 4 mobile)
Ophthalmic	20
Speech Therapy	50
Physical Medicine	2
Orthoptic	6
Enuresis	8
Audiology	6
Audiometry	29

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS AND TREATMENT

(See also Appendix "A")

During the year ended 31st December 1973, 34,601 pupils were given a full medical examination compared with 35,806 in 1972, a decrease of 1,205.

The scheme for selective medical inspections continued to operate throughout the County during 1973, the benefits of this scheme being that the medical staff are thus able to devote more of their time to those children with particular health problems, rather than seeing a majority of healthy children.

Although only a minority of older children are given a full medical examination, all entrants continue to be examined.

School Meals and Milk in Schools Scheme

The Milk and Meals (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 1971 lowered the age range of children entitled to free school milk, but permitted exceptions to be made on health grounds.

The Chief Education Officer has once again been kind enough to arrange for me to have a report on the School Meals Service and the Milk in Schools scheme as shown in Appendix "B".

Recuperative Holidays

One hundred and fifty one children were provided with recuperative holidays during 1973 under arrangements made through the School Health Service compared with 80 during 1972.

SPEECH THERAPY

The following report has been received from Miss J. Austin, County Speech Therapist:--

"The staffing situation remains the same as in the same period of 1972 (21 speech therapists working the equivalent of 13 whole-time posts -- December 1973). Speech therapists have been appointed to several Divisions during the year, including the Braintree/Witham and Epping/Loughton areas. There is still a shortage of therapy generally in the County, and particularly in Clacton, parts of S.E. Essex, Basildon and Thurrock.

The appointments of senior speech therapists made in 1973, are resulting in better co-ordination of the service and have also enabled more advisory work to take place. Several staff have been involved recently, for example, in a series of talks for teachers on the speech and language handicapped child at the County Education Centre.

During the summer holidays, a two week intensive course for stammerers attending secondary schools, was held in Chelmsford. Apart from this addition, the service has remained similar to that in previous years. A decrease in referrals in one part of the County, where there has been no service at all for some months, accounts for the decline in the figures given below: in fact the demand for speech therapy continues to increase -- particularly for an improved service to children attending special schools. With the same ratio of staff to the child population, it has however again been necessary to restrict regular treatment to those children most urgently requiring it, providing a service, wherever possible, of language assessment with advice to parents and teaching staff, for the remainder."

The following table gives details of speech therapy referrals etc. for 1973 with comparable figures for 1972:--

	1972	1973
Referred for Speech Therapy	1,412	1,259
Commenced treatment	1,068	1,085
No. receiving treatment at end of year	1,574	1,229
No. on waiting list at the end of year	585	891
Total treated during year	2,435	2,429

CHILD GUIDANCE SERVICE

There have not been any significant changes in the child guidance service during this year. The difficulties of working in unsuitable or inadequate accommodation have continued and it is to the credit of the staff in the service that standards have been maintained.

The repeated requests to the Regional Hospital Board have not produced any change in the Saffron Walden District though it is still hoped that some time in the future a psychiatrist may be appointed to undertake sessions there, so that the children do not have to travel to clinics at Cambridge, Chelmsford or Harlow. It has been agreed by the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board that the psychiatric sessions at the Colchester Child Guidance Clinic be increased by 3 per week (to 9 per week), linked to 2 sessions per week at the Children's Unit, Turner Road, and 2 sessions per week at the Chafford Community Home, and it is anticipated that an appointment will be made during the coming year to this post, which will be welcomed by all concerned with child guidance in that part of the Administrative County.

There has been disquiet among staff concerning the future of child guidance after re-organisation, particularly among the social workers at the clinics, and the decision that the social workers will be transferred to the staff of the County Education Officer has been welcomed by those concerned who feel that they will be able to continue their work in this special context. At the same time it has been agreed that the psychotherapists will transfer to the Area Health Authority so that at child guidance clinics the psychologists and social workers will be employed by the County Education Officer, the psychiatrists will be employed by the Regional Health Authority, and the psychotherapists will be employed by the Area Health Authority, a situation which seems to be no less complicated than that existing before re-organisation becomes effective.

AUDIOLOGY SERVICE

The audiology service continued unchanged throughout the County during 1973. Mr. Cammock, Consultant Otologist, visited all the clinics and contact with E.N.T. consultants at hospitals was maintained.

In the Harlow/West-Essex Areas it was suggested to the Hospital Management Committee that a hearing aid technician should be appointed who was able to fit permanent ear moulds for those children requiring them, as these children were having to travel to hospitals in London, Chelmsford or Southend for this service. The Hospital Management Committee agreed in principle with the idea, but unfortunately it has not yet proved possible to make this appointment to help reduce the travelling time for these children.

The work of the peripatetic teacher of the deaf is closely associated with the audiology clinics and a report by the advisory teacher of the deaf is given in Appendix "C".

PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE

In the 1972 Report on the School Health Service mention was made of the need to extend the service provided by the physiotherapists and I am pleased to be able to say that from September 1973 the establishment was increased from 1 to 1.5, thus enabling cover to be provided at some E.S.N. (M) schools as well as giving a little extra time to the E.S.N. (S) schools.

Fortunately it has proved possible to get qualified staff to take on the additional sessions which are appreciated by the staff of the schools, and benefit the pupils at these schools.

A further increase in the establishment of physiotherapists for 1974 has been suggested by the Special Services Sub-Committee of the Education Committee, but this will become the responsibility of the Area Health Authority after re-organisation in April 1974, and it is to be hoped that sufficient funds can be made available to permit this.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

Details of the numbers of newly assessed handicapped pupils in 1973 are shown in the table in Appendix "D".

This table also shows the numbers of handicapped children receiving special educational treatment and the category of school attended, as well as indicating the number of children requiring but not receiving special educational treatment, and those on the register who do not require special educational treatment.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

School children and students in attendance at establishments for further education continued to receive vaccination protection against tuberculosis during 1973.

The following table gives details of the vaccination carried out:—

Division (1)	Number of Children Skin Tested (2)	Positive Reactions at Preliminary Test		Number of Children who received B.C.G. Vaccination (5)
		Number (3)	Percentage (4)	
North-East Essex	1,692	58	3.4	1,570
Mid-Essex	1,627	56	3.4	1,361
South-East Essex	1,538	7	0.5	1,339
West-Essex	2,165	201	9.3	1,958
Harlow	2,886	47	1.6	1,782
Thurrock	1,910	112	5.9	1,664
Basildon	1,326	60	4.5	1,248
Colchester	2,017	29	1.4	1,914
Administrative County	15,161	570	3.8	12,836

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Appendix "E" of this report gives a table showing the number of notifications of infectious and other notifiable diseases received during 1973 in respect of school children.

HEALTH EDUCATION

This service continued to operate during the year, albeit under some difficulties due to staff changes and the absence of the Health Education Officer, Mr. C. E. Williams, for much of the year whilst attending Leeds University Diploma in Health Education course, which he successfully completed. The only major variation in the service concerned the establishment of the new Health Education Centre in Chelmsford. The adaptation of buildings at the former Isolation Hospital was nearly completed at the end of the year and the Centre was brought into limited operation early in 1974. Facilities are being provided for a workshop, preview cinema, library and reference room, exhibition room and small conference room. It is anticipated that this centre will be of considerable importance in relation to the expansion of the service after the re-organisation of the Health Service in 1974.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

I am once again indebted to the Chief Education Officer for the report (Appendix "F") by the Senior Adviser of Physical Education.

SCHOOL SWIMMING POOLS

The following comments are made by Mr. M. E. Rousell, County Health Inspector:—

During the summer a Chemist was appointed to the Environmental Health Section to act as "troubleshooter". Inspections made by this officer and the advice given by him were greatly appreciated by persons operating pools.

In addition, revised guidance notes on the operation of school pools, with particular reference to chlorination, and general water quality, were issued and available at all pools.

The number of inspections of pools during the year was 310.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

Once again I have to thank the Chief Constable of Essex and Southend-on-Sea Joint Constabulary for the following information relating to road accidents in the County Police District in which children under 16 years of age were involved.

During 1973 there were 14 fatal accidents. Of the children concerned 6 were killed as pedestrians, 1 as a pedal cyclist, and 7 as passengers.

Child pedestrians injured 660

Child pedal cyclists injured 297

Children injured (other than as pedestrians
or pedal cyclists) 486

Casualties by age groups 1973

Ages	No.
0 – 1	16 (1)
1 – 2	30 (3)
2 – 3	50 (2)
3 – 4	65 (1)
4 – 5	84
5 – 6	68
6 – 7	97 (2)
7 – 8	118
8 – 9	120
9 – 10	101
10 – 11	105 (1)
11 – 12	114 (3)
12 – 13	111
13 – 14	118
14 – 15	115 (1)
15 – 16	145
	1,457 (14)

The figures in parenthesis denote the numbers killed and are included in the main figure.

Children up to 5 years were responsible for 79 accidents and from 5 to 15 years 767 accidents.

The main causes of accidents for which children were responsible are shown as follows:—

Cause	Up to 5 years	5 – 15 (inc) years
Pedestrians crossing the road NOT masked by vehicle	34	293
Pedestrians crossing the road masked by stationary or moving vehicle	32	175
Cyclist turning right without due care . .	—	55
Cyclist pulling out from offside or nearside without due care	—	29
Cyclist losing control or inexperienced . .	—	22
Cyclist not paying attention	—	21
Cyclist failing to comply with traffic signal, sign or road marking	—	20

Persons aged 16 years were injured as follows:—

Pedal cyclists	—	19
Pedestrians	—	20 (1)
Others	—	267 (1)

and were responsible for 137 accidents as under

Pedal cyclists	—	9
Moped/motor cycle etc.	—	107
Car drivers	—	5
Horse riders	—	3
Pedestrians	—	13 (1)

Figures in parenthesis denote fatal accidents and are included in the main figure.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER FOR 1973

(figures in parenthesis refer to 1972)

The full-time equivalent of 39.8 dental officers of all grades were in post at 31st December 1973, compared with 42.7 at 31st December 1972, a reduction of 2.9. This deterioration in the staffing position, despite repeated advertising of vacancies, is reflected in a decreased number of sessions devoted to inspection, 727 (751) and to treatment 15,420 (15,666). In spite of the fewer available sessions, however, it is praiseworthy that the staff carried out a larger number of fillings, 81,057 (77,310) of extractions, 19,826 (18,404) during a greater number of visits by child patients, 92,348 (88,347). The ratio of visits per session rose from 5.74 in 1972 to 6.10 and there was a reduction in the number of appointments not kept by patients. Regrettably, due to a smaller staff, the number of children routinely inspected at school during the year fell slightly from 100,684 in 1972 to 99,169 and those inspected for the first time at clinics from 31,132 to 30,256. It is pleasing to report that more courses of treatment, 33,704 were actually completed than during 1972, 31,095.

Other statistics worthy of notice include a greatly increased number of children receiving prophylaxis (sealing and polishing) 11,074 (7,967), x-ray 3,832 (2,776) and crowns, 272 (200). 781 (575) new orthodontic cases were commenced during the year and 693 (585) removable appliances together with 35 (9) fixed appliances fitted. In general the picture which emerges is one of a reduced dental staff working more efficiently and with greater productivity despite difficulties arising from industrial disputes that have some effect on power supplies.

Within the establishment of 1 Principal School Dental Officer, 1 Orthodontist, 8 Area Dental Officers and 40 Dental Officers, the Committee approved the establishment of 5 Senior Dental Officers, of whom 3 were in post by the end of the year. These Senior Dental Officers have special responsibilities to ensure that all handicapped children are regularly inspected and that any necessary treatment is carried out and early reports confirm that a much improved service for these children is now developing.

The full-time equivalent of 5.3 Dental Auxiliaries were in post at 31st December 1973 compared with 7.1 at the end of 1972 and it proved almost impossible to fill vacancies up to the establishment of 8.

It is difficult to know whether the reduction of staff and difficulty of recruitment during 1973 was fortuitous, caused by retirement of elderly members of staff or due to uncertainty about the future of the school dental service after re-organisation in 1974. Whatever the cause it is disturbing since the aim must be to provide a full inspection service and much more treatment for children many of whom in need of treatment are unable to receive full treatment either through the school dental service or through the N.H.S. If re-organisation in due course brings about an improvement in the dental care of children then it will have been proved to be a very worthwhile exercise indeed.

The new Canvey Island clinic was completed during the year affording 2 surgeries in place of one in the old clinic, an additional surgery was provided at the Clacton clinic whilst the new Brentwood clinic with 2 surgeries is expected

to be opened in March 1974. These developments have increased the number of 2 surgery clinics which allow the employment of a dental auxiliary working under the direction of the dental officer. The county's fourth mobile dental clinic was delivered behind schedule, during the summer, and has been used for treating children within the grounds of rural schools in the Mid-Essex area. There is now little doubt of the value of mobile dental clinics in the rural areas but shortage of staff has prevented their use whole-time, staff having to share their time between fixed and mobile clinics.

The policy of gradually replacing obsolete surgery equipment continued and the standard of equipment was maintained at a satisfactory level. Monitoring of all staff using x-ray equipment was repeated and no case of undue radiation was found by the Radiological Protection Board.

In the field of dental health education, the programme of visting schools in the Saffron Walden, Thaxted and Dunmow rural areas with the full dental health exhibition and teaching was completed by the end of the summer term and a new programme of visits to primary schools in the South-East Health Area started in September. Follow up visits were carried out in West Essex and more dental education was done in the ante-natal and welfare clinics. In addition to the work carried out by the dental health assistant, dental officers and dental auxiliaries participated in such work, particularly in the Harlow, S.E. Essex, West Essex and Thurrock divisions. A one-day conference on dental health education took place in November which was attended by all the Area Dental Officers accompanied by any dental officers, auxiliaries and chairside assistants involved in such work. Lectures were given by members of the staff and new films shown followed by a discussion on ways and means of best carrying out dental health education.

Several dental officers attended D.H.S.S. sponsored integration courses during the year. 3 whole-time officers attended a 3 day course on Preventive Dentistry organised by the British Dental Association in London in March and 3 whole-time officers the Annual Conference of the British Dental Association held in Southport in June.

Mr. P. R. J. Bush, Supervisory Dental Officer, Basildon obtained the Diploma in Dental Health by examination in July following one year of study sponsored by the County Council and Mr. M. M. Ashar, Area Dental Officer, Harlow, commenced a similar course of study in October.

Much thought and discussion took place during the year on the forthcoming re-organisation of the Health Services on 1st April 1974 and on the problem of improving the dental health care of child population.

APPENDIX "A"

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1973

Part I — Medical Inspection of Pupils attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools (including Nursery and Special Schools).

Table 'A' — Periodic Medical Inspections

Age Group inspected (By year of Birth) (1)	No. of Pupils who have received a full medical examination (2)	Physical condition of pupils inspected		No. of Pupils found not to warrant a medical examination (5)
		Satisfactory No. (3)	Unsatisfactory No. (4)	
1969 and later	585	585	—	—
1968	7,563	7,550	13	—
1967	10,970	10,957	13	—
1966	1,623	1,621	2	—
1965	1,218	1,216	2	1,224
1964	1,271	1,268	3	1,797
1963	863	862	1	568
1962	1,110	1,110	—	2
1961	879	879	—	913
1960	655	655	—	1,317
1959	3,411	3,410	1	671
1958 and earlier	4,453	4,451	2	2,503
TOTAL	34,601	34,564	37	8,995

Col.(3) total as a percentage
Col.(2) total = 99.89%

TABLE 'B'	—	Other Inspections	
		Number of Special Inspections	6,545
		Number of Re-inspections	11,442
		Total	17,987

TABLE 'C'	—	Infestation with Vermin	
	(a)	Total number of individual examinations of pupils in schools by school nurses or other authorised persons	179,003
	(b)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	1,204
	(c)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act 1944) . . .	107
	(d)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act 1944) . . .	9

PART II – Treatment Tables

Table 'A'. Eye Disease, Defective Vision and Squint

	Number of cases known to have been dealt with
External and other, excluding errors of refraction squint	1,772
Errors of refraction (including squint)	7,659
Total	9,431
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	4,214

Table 'B'. Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat

	Number of cases known to have been dealt with
Received operative treatment —	
(a) for diseases of the ear	73
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	854
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	320
Received other forms of treatment	653
Total	1,900
Total number of pupils in schools who are known to have been provided with hearing aids —	
(a) in 1973	48
(b) in previous years	336

Table 'C'. Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

	Number of cases known to have been dealt with
(a) Pupils treated at clinics or out-patients departments	982
(b) Pupils treated at school for postural defects	203
Total	1,185

**Table 'D'. Diseases of the Skin (excluding uncleanliness,
for which see Table 'C' of Part I)**

	Number of Pupils known to have been treated
Ringworm	
(a) Scalp	—
(b). Body	3
Scabies	3
Impetigo	6
Other skin diseases	1,787
Total	1,799

Table 'E'. Child Guidance Treatment

	Number of Pupils known to have been treated
Pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	2,731

Table 'F'. Speech Therapy

	Number of Pupils known to have been treated
Pupils treated by Speech Therapists	2,429

Table 'G'. Other Treatment Given

	Number of Pupils known to have been treated
(a) Pupils with minor ailments	3,241
(b) Pupils who received convalescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements . .	151
(c) Pupils who received B.C.G. vaccination	12,836
(d) Other than (a), (b) and (c) above:-	
Enuresis	308
Total	16,536

Dental Inspection and Treatment carried out by the Authority

Inspections

(a) Pupils inspected at school	99,169
(b) Pupils inspected at clinic	30,256
Number of (a) and (b) found to require treatment . . .	52,741
Number of (a) and (b) offered treatment	49,718
(c) Pupils re-inspected at School or Clinic	8,448
Number of (c) found to require treatment	5,599

Attendance and Treatment

Total visits	92,348
Additional courses of treatment commenced	5,115
Courses of treatment completed	33,704
Visits for emergency treatment	4,182
Fillings:	
(a) Permanent teeth	45,601
(b) Deciduous teeth	35,456
	81,057
Teeth filled:	
(a) Permanent teeth	38,383
(b) Deciduous teeth	31,489
	69,872
Teeth extracted:	
(a) Permanent teeth	4,482
(b) Deciduous teeth	15,344
	19,826

General anaesthetics administered	6,298
Pupils X-rayed	3,832
Prophylaxis	11,074
Teeth otherwise conserved	7,227
Teeth root filled	383
Inlays	10
Crowns	272

Orthodontics

New cases commenced during year	781
Cases completed during year	330
Cases discontinued during year	67
Number of removable appliances fitted	693
Number of fixed appliances fitted	35
Pupils referred to Hospital Consultant	170

Prosthetics

Pupils supplied with full upper and lower dentures (first time)	1
Pupils supplied with other dentures (first time)	58
Number of dentures supplied	73

Sessions

Sessions devoted to treatment	13,464
Sessions devoted to inspection	727
Sessions devoted to Dental Health Education	355

Dental Auxiliaries

Total visits	10,673
Fillings:	
(a) Permanent Teeth	4,925
(b) Deciduous Teeth	5,685
Deciduous Teeth Extracted	338
Prophylaxis	3,133

APPENDIX "B"

Report on the Catering and School Meals Service and Milk in Schools

Mr. D. T. Powell has given the following report:—

The number of children taking school dinners in the Autumn term 1973 was 128,896, an increase of 7.9% compared with this time last year.

The initial research carried out with a view to the computer assisted planning of menus and ordering of food has now been completed. A pilot scheme has been in operation since the commencement of the Summer term 1973 which includes 23 kitchens serving 25 primary schools at present and the initial results are encouraging.

The experiments in secondary schools involving the provision of a wider range of food in the form of snacks and beverages at economic prices have now been extended to include at least one school in most divisions.

A Catering Training Centre came into use at the Sir Charles Lucas Comprehensive School, Colchester, at the commencement of the Autumn term 1973. Temporary training centres have been set up in schools where one of the kitchens on the site has been taken out of use for production purposes due to the low take up of meals. Following the success of the conference in 1972, separate training conferences were held at Easter 1973 for persons in charge of primary and secondary schools when over 600 attended.

A continuous system of testing and selection of food is now in operation which takes into account the views of children and other consumers as well as catering and school meals staff. Separate requisitions are now used for schools and other establishments which indicate the items tested by the Essex Food Testing Panel and recommended as good buys.

A summary of the relevant figures on the consumption of milk and meals is given below:—

Date	No. of Day Pupils Present	No. having Dinner	Per cent of Pupils having Dinner	No. having Milk *	Per cent of Pupils having Milk
Autumn 1966	158,283	107,608	68.0	124,981	79.0
Autumn 1967	165,067	117,426	71.1	129,582	78.7
Autumn 1968	171,448	120,627	70.3	96,473	91.2
Autumn 1969	180,138	124,085	68.9	101,877	91.6
Autumn 1970	188,890	124,702	66.0	105,616	92.1
Autumn 1971	195,895	107,192†	54.8	44,668	92.3
Autumn 1972	204,054	119,454†	58.5	45,807	91.8
Autumn 1973	209,452	128,896†	61.5	46,208	94.9

* From Autumn 1968, free milk was provided only for children in primary and special schools and from Autumn 1971 this was further amended to exclude children who had attained the age of 7 years by the end of the summer term, except for children in special schools and pupils in respect of whom the School Medical Officer had issued a certificate stating that milk was required on health grounds. The percentages therefore are calculated on the numbers present and entitled to receive free milk.

† In addition, 24,685 pupils (12.6%) brought sandwich meals in 1971; in 1972 the figures decreased to 18,645 (9.1%) and in 1973 it rose again to 20,263 (9.7%).

APPENDIX "C"

Report by the Advisory Teacher of the Deaf for 1973

The past year has witnessed further expansion of the facilities provided by the County for hearing-impaired children. Partially Hearing Unit provision has now been made at the Philip Morant County Secondary School, Colchester and it is hoped that admissions to this Unit will commence in September 1974. Work has been completed on the nursery/infant partially hearing unit at the Ghyllgrove Infant School, Basildon and the building of the Swayne School Partially Hearing Unit at Rayleigh is progressing towards completion early in 1974. Each of these new Units will be fully equipped with the most up-to-date amplifying and teaching equipment. As indicated in the report for 1972, the number of children supervised by the peripatetic teachers continues to expand. It became evident that an additional peripatetic teacher would be required and in October such an appointment was made, bringing the strength of the service to five teachers, effective from January 1974.

Comparative peripatetic case-load figures are:

	1973	1972
Pre-school	31	33
Primary	124	108
Secondary	121	108
Total	276	249

The following table shows the number of children attending partially hearing units (December 1973).

Secondary (2 P.H.U's)	Junior (3 P.H.U's)	Nursery/Infant (4 P.H.U's)
26	42	41

In November a one-day course for Essex teachers of the deaf was held at Rayleigh and was pleased to welcome Mr. M. Martin, Director of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf Technical Department, as guest speaker. The theme of the course was the analysis and teaching of speech and was attended by 26 staff. It is proposed that at least one such course be held annually.

The advisory and peripatetic teachers express their thanks to the Principal School Medical Officer, the Divisional School Medical Officers and their Staffs for their assistance, co-operation and encouragement which is constantly afforded to the service.

APPENDIX "D" Children on the Handicapped Pupils Register

	Newly assessed as handicapped in 1973		Receiving special educational treatment						Requiring but not receiving special educational treatment		On register but not requiring special educa- tional treatment	
	All Ages	Under 5 years	At Day Special School	At Resi- dential Special School	At Ordinary School	Else- where	Total All Ages	Total under 5 years	All Ages	Under 5 years	All Ages	Under 5 years
Blind	4	1	3	15	—	—	18	1	5	2	1	1
Partially sighted	6	—	27	16	7	2	52	1	3	—	12	—
Deaf	5	2	28	18	1	—	47	3	—	—	6	3
Partially hearing	38	14	87	49	36	1	173	8	6	3	109	12
Physically handicapped	61	25	105	61	13	24	203	12	18	5	316	53
Delicate	42	4	77	80	30	6	193	1	21	—	139	—
Maladjusted	123	5	35	345	13	10	403	1	75	2	64	—
E.S.N.	246	28	1,277	201	58	22	1,558	17	154	23	92	6
S.S.N.	33	24	509	69	—	49	627	16	25	15	12	10
Epileptic	8	1	8	10	—	2	20	1	3	—	74	3
Speech Defects	20	19	4	3	1	15	23	18	7	2	4	—
Total	586	123	2,160	870*	159	131	3,320*	79	317	52	829	88

* Includes 3 Autistic

APPENDIX "E"

Notification of Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases in Children between the ages of 5 and 15 — 1973

(1)	Scarlet Fever (2)	Whooping Cough (3)	Measles (4)	Dysentery (5)	Food Poisoning (6)	Infective Jaundice (7)	Tuberculosis Respiratory (8)	Other (9)	Acute Meningitis (10)	Others (11)	Total (12)
North-East Essex	13	—	358	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	373
Mid-Essex	62	6	948	9	2	—	2	—	2	—	1,031
South-East Essex	42	6	558	—	3	2	—	1	11	—	623
West Essex	29	1	394	—	—	4	2	—	3	1	434
Harlow	42	—	683	—	5	2	—	—	1	—	733
Thurrock	16	—	355	2	7	8	—	—	6	—	394
Basildon	88	4	356	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	453
Colchester	9	6	393	17	1	—	—	—	—	—	426
Total	301	23	4,045	28	19	18	4	2	25	2	4,467

Others = 1 Malaria and 1 Acute Encephalitis (post infectious)

APPENDIX "F"

This Report by the County Inspector for Physical Education has been submitted by the County Education Officer

In recent years there have been considerable progressive strides in Physical Education ranging from an increase in the building programme to an increase in Courses, Conferences and Equipment for the teaching of the subject to all age levels.

Although there were again quite definite movements in new directions in 1973, it was mainly a year of consolidation and preparation for the proposed County re-organisation.

In particular County Policies were carefully scrutinised and amended with particular attention paid to those relating to Safety. Safety in the teaching of Gymnastics, Trampolining, Athletics and Swimming received special consideration, the latter being extensive enough to comprise a lengthy pamphlet in its own right. Included in the 'Operation of School Swimming Pools' booklet were sections on:-

Water Contamination	Hygiene Precautions
Water Treatment	Safety at the Pool
Water Testing	Storage and Handling of Chemicals

Compulsory 'Safety' courses for specialist teachers involved with the teaching of Trampolining were again held and, in view of the number of schools wishing to participate in a Gymnastics' Award Scheme; courses on coaching and supporting have been planned for non specialist Primary School Teachers.

In addition, safety in outdoor education was re-appraised, and a new scheme to safeguard pupils and staff taking part in hazardous pursuits in mountains and on the water was implemented and supported by numerous training courses.

The range of general Physical Education courses held was once again considerable. Crystal Palace National Sports Centre continued to prove an excellent venue for courses in view of its extensive range of facilities and residential accommodation, and excellent courses were held for:-

'Probationary Teachers of Physical Education'

With particular reference to Trampolining: Life Saving and Resuscitation.

'Primary/Secondary Teachers of Physical Education'

With particular reference to lesson content: teaching Method and Organisation.

Significant, under the umbrella of Teachers Courses in 1973, was the relationship established with the Wardens of the developing 'Teachers Centres'. Close consultation took place with them in an effort to pool resources and, above all, avoid repetition in the range of courses offered.

It must be emphasised, at this point, that excellent support and co-operation was again offered to the Physical Education Advisory Staff, by the Director of In Service Education at the County Education Centre.

In spite of the excessive costs associated with the Building Programme, Physical Education facilities have continued to improve and increase. Sports Halls and, once again, Swimming Pools have moved from design boards to reality and there has been a steady build up of Comprehensive Schools with a balanced range of work spaces and facilities.

The adequacy of school facilities was a major discussion point during 1973 in view of the recognised need to offer older pupils, particularly those associated with the R.O.S.L.A. development, a wide and varied field of activities.

A choice of 'Options' both on and off school sites was considered essential to meet the varied needs of 5th form pupils in particular and to encourage continued participation in Physical Education in after school years.

In relation to sports facilities for the Secondary and Further levels of education, there was a continuance of the liaison between the Education Committee and Local Authority Councils on the issue of 'Joint Planning and Provision'. Where such schemes materialised, pooling of resources resulted in much improved facilities to the benefit of both school and community groups.

The issue of Joint Planning and Provision was selected as one of the two main topics for Lecture and Discussion purposes at the 1973 Conference for the County's Head of Physical Education Departments, held once again, at the Education Centre during the Autumn term, the Conference attracted the majority of our Senior Physical Educationists and was again instrumental in encouraging a sense of unity and common purpose amongst teachers. It is sincerely hoped that, in addition, teaching standards might be maintained or improved as a result of the discussion of common problems.

A source of great inspiration for teachers in attendance was a lecture given by the Vice Principal of a College of Education. Evident amongst a wide field of comments he made were:-

'Physical Education imparts an influence on the whole morale and discipline of the school'.

'I believe Physical Education to be one of the most important subjects in the school curriculum'.

A particular feature of 1973 was the contact made with 'Special Schools' in the County. Meetings, visits and discussions took place in an effort to ensure that planning and practical assistance was improved. Since then much care and thought has gone into the equipping of the schools, in particular, the 'Special Care Units'. Ideas which continue to be discussed and tried include:-

- (a) Overhead trackways and support harnesses.
- (b) Carpetted Platforms to raise the level of the visual environment of the non ambulant pupils.
- (c) Inflatable 'soft' play apparatus.
- (d) Sloping ramps and overhead rigging for Swimming Pools.

1973 saw the opening of a Community Deep Water Swimming Pool within the boundary of the South East Essex Division. Negotiations were conducted with the U.D.C. and an agreement made to establish a schools programme at the pool. Two full time, qualified instructors were appointed and all schools within reasonable travelling distance offered water space and time. The value of the

scheme was unquestioned but the financing of it caused considerable problems. It is hoped that County Committee permission and financial aid will be forthcoming in the future to enable the South East and other major Swimming Programmes to continue.

Once again schools, Divisional and County teams attained excellent standards and successes in Regional and National competitions. Significant amongst these successes was the achievement of Kents Hill Junior School, from the South East Division.

In the National Dolphin Trophy Competition they excelled even their own outstanding record of the past few years. It is worth noting that in all they won 7 awards and these included:-

The consistent achievement award.

The Divisional Championship of Division 8

Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire.

Division 8 Championship Porpoise Award (Lower Juniors)

An Award of Merit for the overall performance in swimming.

There were only five given in the County last year.

An Award of Distinction

National Winners and the Premier Award

which is the blue riband of the scheme for which all the National winners compete. To be eligible every child leaving the school must be able to swim at least 200 yards and the ultimate winner is then decided by A.S.A. and R.L.S.S. awards for advanced swimming.

To mark this achievement the school was selected by Thames Television to initiate a series on swimming which will appear in the Magpie Programme.

